MOTHERHOOD—A DANGEROUS OCCUPATION.

THE

WOMAN'S LEADER

AND

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NOTES AND NEWS

Victory.

Reports from Germany, as we go to press, suggest that Herr Stresemann's Government is on the brink of what will be in fact, if not in name, a surrender of the "passive resistance" policy. When that policy was adopted last January it was generally supposed that the German people might conceivably endure the strain until the end of May. They have, to the surprise of the world, endured it until the end of September. Whether the surrender of the Government will ensure the immediate surrender of the Rhine population, whether if it does the civilised life of Germany will go down in chaos under the excesses of Monarchists or Communists, is a matter of doubt among those who are watching events. But if the object of M. Poincaré's Rhine policy is to destroy the economic and political might of a dangerous enemy, we must congratulate him upon its success. It is true that this most recent triumph of armed force in Europe falls short in many ways of the great tradition of Verdun and the Marne. But no doubt it has helped to make the world safe for . . . however, not wishing to commit ourselves to any political view we will leave our readers to determine what it has helped to make the world safe for.

Lord Morley.

Since 1914 Lord Morley has been withdrawn from public affairs. His death at the age of 84 will nevertheless cause a pang to all who value the great tradition he represented. His attitude on questions specially represented by this journal was never very clear. But every cause which depends for its success on a fearless placing of the truth and an uncompromising battle with injustice may claim him as spiritually its advocate; whether he knew it himself or not.

Profits in the Catering Trade.

Whatever the truth about the payment of its workers, the Catering Trade cannot plead the excuse for underpayment which is found so effective in most underpaid industries. It has no foreign competition to meet and it has been making high profits. A recent article in the financial columns of *The Times* pointed out the striking contrast between the general depression of the great staple industries of the country: iron and steel,

shipbuilding, the transport trades, etc., and the flourishing condition of the luxury trades: brewing, confectionery, the great hotel companies, the popular teashop companies, the great drapery stores. Has the fact that the former group mainly employ men; the latter (with the exception of brewing) mainly underpaid women, anything to do with this contrast?

The B.A. on Women's Wages.

At the meeting of the British Association last week, Professor Edgeworth continued his last year's paper on Women's Wages. There was a lively discussion, which, however, turned almost entirely on the question of the endowment of families. Professor Edgeworth's allusion to this showed that he was still on the fence on this subject. He appeared to favour cautious experiments in endowment on the French lines. He feared the weakening of the incentive to industry, if men no longer felt that they were working for their own wives and families. Sir William H. Beveridge, who presided, was also "on the fence" as to family endowment. He did not share Professor Edgeworth's fears as to the effect on the incentive to work, but thought that the difficulty about the scheme centred in the question of population. Did they want to increase families or not, and would family allowances have that effect? On that question he described himself as being in the position of an inquirer.

The B.A. on Population.

Sir William Beveridge's presidential address to the economic section referred again at considerable length to the subject of population. He does not agree with the view put forward by Mr. Keynes and his school that there is already a grave danger of over population in this country and throughout Europe, and that over-population is closely connected with unemployment problems. He expressed the cheering view that the limit of the world's productive capacity is very far indeed from having been reached.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward.

The newly published *Life of Mrs. Humphrey Ward*, by her daughter, Mrs. Trevelyan, will be eagerly read even by women who profoundly disagreed with Mrs. Ward on at least one great subject, possibly on many. Our readers will naturally turn to the chapter

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which describes Mrs. Ward's anti-suffragist activities, hoping to find therein some fresh explanation of an attitude which, on the part of so able a woman, has seemed to them inexplicable. They will be disappointed. The explanation lies in other parts of the book, which reveals Mrs. Ward's weaknesses as well as her strength. But they will not be disappointed in the book itself. It is admirably written, and, like Lady Gwendoline Cecil's Life of Lord Salisbury, is unusually free from the defects which usually mar a biography by a near relation. Mrs. Trevelyan has managed to combine the affectionate loyalty of a daughter with the discriminating judgment of a biographer. We hope to review the book in an early issue.

The "Scrubwoman" and the Motor-car.

The Nation last week had a paragraph which is not only amusing from a British point of view but, as that paper suggests instructive as offering a new "definition of public service." It appears that in Detroit, U.S.A., a "scrubwoman" (we e what we would call a charwoman) came to work at the Municipal Offices daily in her own motor-car. "It was agreed, says the Nation, "that a scrubwoman who had a motor-car was a contradiction in terms. A commissioner was appointed to consider the problem and recommended that, as positions as scrubwomen should be reserved for the needy, the lady in question should be discharged, however efficient and satisfactory generally she might be, and discharged she was. There has been difference of opinion in Detroit on this judgment. Some hold that her leisure time occupations were no business of her employers, others agree with the Council of Detroit that municipal jobs of this kind are intended for the necessitous, not the fortunate possessors of automobiles." We are surprised to think—as is evident—that there are two opinions on this question, and we invite the views of our readers.

Women's Advertising Club.

This newly formed Club is intended to draw together women engaged in the advertising profession in London. Its President and Secretary are both Scotchwomen—Miss Marion Jean Lyon, Advertisement Manager of *Punch*, and Miss Kathleen MacLachlan. of Messrs. W. S. Crawford, Ltd. Its promoters claim that the advertisements business is especially suited to women, as women do most of the laying-out of money, and it is to them that the advertiser should appeal.

Women in Local Government.

The Women's Local Government Society is arranging two days' conference for women Councillors, Guardians and Magistrates on 5th and 6th December; followed by visits to local institutions on 7th December. The Conference will be held in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The programme and speakers will be announced shortly, and further information can be obtained from the society's office, 19 Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Women and Internationalism.

Another Conference which should interest our readers announced for March, 1924; in London. It arises out of the proposal made by Mrs. Chapman Catt last November to a join meeting of the Boards of Officers of the International Counof Women and of the International Woman, Suffrage Alliance She then suggested the possibility of a Congress in which the chief international women's organizations should take par A committee was formed including representatives of practical all these organizations. It was decided to take as the subject 'The Prevention of the Causes of War," so that wome might demonstrate their united support for an international policy based on the promotion of permanent peace.

A DANGEROUS OCCUPATION.

Much interest has been aroused during the past week by the publication of the fourth annual medical report¹ of the Ministry of Health. It is written by the Ministry's Chief Medical Officer, Sir George Newman, and it deals with the year 1922. With many of its outstanding features readers of the daily press are already familiar. The general improvement in the nation's health which it records, and the satisfactory decline in infant mortality, have evoked widespread comment. So too has its most sinister feature, the striking increase during recent years in the death-rate from cancer. There is, however, one section of it which, in our opinion, merits closer attention than the press has bestowed upon it—that which embodies certain facts and figures relating to maternal mortality. In contrast with the declining death-rate of children under one year, we are told, 'the closely related mortality among women in child-birth still remains high and has shown little or no improvement since 1894. No fewer than 2,971 women died in child-birth and another 1,051 from conditions associated with it. Of the 2,971 as many as 1,079 died from puerperal fever, a preventable condition" (the italics are ours). The actual rate of maternal mortality for 1922 was in fact 3.81 per 1,000 births. "It is generally recognized," the report continues, "that many of these deaths are preventable, and given adequate and skilled professional care a large proportion of them should not occur." difficulty has been due to the mother herself "with her instinctive desire to escape notice during pregnancy, her trust in family traditions and practises, and her frequent reliance upon ignorant advisers"; part, however, is due to "financial considerations which have prevented the maturing of schemes for

To confess the truth, we find it difficult to comment upon this last sentence with the moderation and self-restraint which our readers will expect from us. Indeed, we are sorely tempted to break into the offensive phraseology employed by the Hon. Member for the Bridgetown Division of Glasgow, in that memorable debate on sundry economies in the public health service, which recently led to his temporary removal from an outraged House of Commons. The one mitigating circumstance in this case is the fact that there does at last appear to be some general recognition of the national disgrace afforded by the statistics. To quote from the report: "The competence of the doctor in regard to obstetrics has recently been the subject a considered review by the General Medical Council, and ste have been taken to improve the education provided at the medical schools in this regard. The new Regulations come in operation forthwith, and all the medical schools are giving t matter their attention. Dr. Janet Campbell has been engage in a survey of the question of midwifery teaching, and Central Midwives Board have the subject of the revision of education of midwives under consideration. The number ante-natal centres is being steadily increased, and it is ho by this means to get mothers to submit themselves for ear examination and advice.

All this, of course, is so much to the good. Nevertheless, fact remains that the present state of affairs is a national disgraand a sinister reflection upon the solicitude which the interest of women have received from a man-made public administration tion. And the reflection becomes all the more sinister when contrast this hideous total of largely preventable deaths with flowing sentiment which generations of writers and speakers h laid at the feet of long-suffering motherhood. And why, we tempted to ask, has the mother an "instinctive desire to ese notice during pregnancy"? An attempt to answer that quest would lead us into a tangled sociological inquiry in the co of which we should no doubt find ourselves in consultation w anthropological experts. Nevertheless, we suspect that mixture of levity and impropriety which has enabled so ma bad jokes to be made at the expense of the child-bearing wor has played its part. And this, too, is a disgrace to our civilizati

Involuntarily, as we scan the pages of this particular section our thoughts turn to the history of another dangerous occupati coal-mining. In 1867 the reform of the franchise brought political power to the toilers in that great industry. brought them two miners' representatives in Parliame Thereafter, hardly a mining accident passed, hardly a death v recorded, without its circumstances being questioned in House by one or other of those two men. Year by year safety provisions of the industry were multiplied. Year by the money spent upon safety increased. We suggest that recently emancipated women of this country and their repr sentatives in Parliament have something to learn from the histor of coal-mining.

¹ "On the State of the Public Health," Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, 1922. H.M. Stationery Office.

THE FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

The work which has passed has been the final settlement of the Greco-Italian crisis, and the explicit recognition of that settlement of both disputants in the Council of the League. Greece and Italy both joined in thanking the League for what t did-Greece being grateful, no doubt, for that instantaneous ecognition of the general sentiment of Europe which led Mussolini to begin his precipitate "climb down", and Italy being grateful perhaps for that tact of the Council by which the limbing down became possible without any loss of any Italian mour propre. This done, the question of the challenged combetence of the League remained: after a series of Council neetings, interspersed with hard arguments in private, unanimity this matter also was achieved, and by the date when the Assembly met (after its interlude for extra commission sittings) Viscount Ishii was able to announce that Italy had agreed to he necessity of procuring a legal ruling on this point

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To those Assembly Members (and spectators) who longed to ear the world condemnation of Italy's unpardonable breach of the spirit and letter of the Covenant, this previous agreement vas a disappointment. It would have been satisfying to make the Italian Delegation and the world press listen to speeches such as every true League advocate could have composed on this subject: it would have been an enthusiastic session. But, in sober fact, the conciliation of Geneva goes so far that such satisfactions are prohibited. The League has triumphed over itself. There is peace.

Serious as is the propaganda set-back of the happenings of his Assembly, lengthy and elaborate as are the explanations ecessary to afford a true judgment of the League's action in he recent crisis, I believe that in the end it will be proved to ave followed the best course. Support which will not trouble o understand facts is not very supporting: and the facts are blain. The jurisdiction of the League is to be established, and meanwhile there is peace.

Apart from this being the centre of interest, many other tings have been going on through this week. The disarmanent and mutual guarantee part has been advanced through ost of its stages, and there seems a serious probability that doption and ratification are in sight. The discussions have been nducted throughout with an eye to the practical, and oratory as been at a complete discount. This pact is nothing if it does ot work, and the assembled delegates keep severely to the point practicability. No doubt there are two or even three years difficult technical adjustments and of unwearving national ropaganda ahead. But there is an actual possibility, at last, nat the new era of the abandonment of international fear is at hand. It has been interesting to watch the tug of international interests in this Commission: mingled hope and fear with

which powers in positions of national insecurity regard it, and the anxious suspicions of the safe powers lest the compromises made to placate them should undo the whole purpose of the pact. Scandinavia, being comparatively safe, tried always to push on fast; France being, or feeling, comparatively unsafe, clings to the special alliances it considers its safeguards: and the balance swings to and fro. Undoubtedly, however, Lord Robert Cecil rules this Commission with the confidence of all parties. He it is who has forced the draft treaty into being : he it is who has drafted its major promises, and now it is he who drives it through, with his eyes always upon peace. It is work of which Great Britain may well be proud.

Disarmament is not the only important subject which the Commissions have been treating. A hard and as yet unfinished fight is waging over the finances of the League and the Amendments to the Covenant. The legal and transport commissions are all hard at work. Most popular attention, however, has been attracted to the Opium debates, to which the presence of the American delegation has given a positively sensational character. This subject is one of great technical difficulty, and though the outlines of what is required are clear enough the practical working out promises to be a long and arduous job. Broadly speaking, the proposal to limit the world production and manufacture of stupifying drugs to the world's legitimate medical and scientific needs is everywhere accepted. But how is the thing to be done? Attention has been focussed again and again upon the production of opium in India for eating, and the accusation against Great Britain springs into every mind when the word opium is mentioned. In fact, however, opium eating is by far the smallest part of the problem and by far the most manageable. Even the smoking has of late years become comparatively unimportant compared with the new and poisonous habit of taking—by injection, as snuff and otherwise—heroin and other derivations of the crude opium or coca leaf. The first step, of course, is to secure the adherance of all the States concerned to the Hague Convention of 1912: but Switzerland (the greatest manufacturer) and Persia (one of the greatest producers) have not yet done even that. Publicity, however, and the admirable and starting statistics now secured by the League are doing their work. And in deciding a further series of official conferences upon particular aspects of this traffic, the Commission is doing wisely. Defaulting states must hurry up, for they can no longer sin in secret. And so they reluctantly realize.

The Assembly will probably not finish its labours for some weeks yet. As day follows day the interest grows, just as, in the years to come, the influence of the League itself will be more and more widely felt.

TWO WOMEN DELEGATES.

We are glad to be able to give a verbatim report of the speeches ven by Dame Edith Lyttelton and Madame Bugge-Wicksell on Report of the Fifth Commission on the Traffic in Women

DAME EDITH LYTTELTON (Great Britain): It has been hought well that a woman should speak on this question accuse it is generally considered to be a woman's question; ut that is not the reason why I am speaking to you to-day, d why I am asking you to be kind enough to listen to I feel that this question is every bit as much a man's question a woman's question, but there is no doubt that women suffer nore and are more the victims of this particular social evil than nen. For that reason I feel in hearty agreement with all the abours of the Advisory Committee, with the work they have one and with the suggestions that they have made.

We all of us know, of course, that unless we can get international agreement on these matters, we cannot get very ar forward with the reforms which we wish to see carried out and it is a matter of deep regret, therefore, that so many States have not yet ratified the Convention. I do beg everyone here to urge the Governments which have not yet signed to do so quickly, ecause this reform, which is so badly needed, is being held up partly because of the delay in ratification.

Now, if you will bear with me for a moment, I want to speak about one portion of the report which is of particular interest to me—I mean the question of the employment of women police. It is well known, of course, that anything to do with women police cannot possibly form the subject of a resolution by this Assembly, but can only be a recommendation. It is irresistible to a woman, however, who has the opportunity of speaking to the representatives of so many nations to say a word about this subject, because all women care immensely for it. If you will allow me, I should like to put before you one or two reasons why women throughout the world are pressing for the employment of women in the police forces.

It is not, as many people have pretended, a mere morbid feminism on the part of women, or simply a kind of vanity, a desire to be seen in uniform, a desire to do the same things as men. It is because they know women can exercise a very great preventive influence. Ask anyone who has had anything to do with the patrolling of open spaces, and they will tell you that the mere presence of a woman very often produces an extraordinary good effect. It is rather difficult to understand why this should be so, but I think even the most degraded of both our sexes have at the bottom of their souls some kind of reverence for women as women, probably due to the influence of their mothers, and that, I think, operates. No doubt everyone here will remember one of the old Greek plays, in which Hyppolitus, who is dying, has a vision of the goddess whom he has always loved and adored, but he begs her to depart, because he does not wish

a person he reveres to see him in the degradation of death. It is something like that.

I do not mean that all police women in uniform are goddesses for a moment, but they certainly do have a deterrent effect. Believe me, women know how best to deal with women; they have a certain flair for character. There was a witty saying once by a Frenchman which ran like this: "Toutes les femmes connaissent parfaitement leur mari mais les maris ne connaissent jamais leur femme." I do not say that this is absolutely true, but I think there is something true about it, and if women understand men like that, surely it must be admitted that they understand women. They know their own sex; they know the temptations and the difficulties of women, and they know also that, underlying all that, there is their essential goodness of character, their extraordinary devotion, their power of selfsacrifice, and, above all, their power of patient, silent endurance. No one knows better than women, and that is why we women of the world ask for permission for women to deal with these subjects. If all of you would go back to your Governments and ask all of them to try the appointment of women police a different influence would be found spreading throughout the world with regard to this question, and it would be well worth the necessary expenditure, which is not a very great one, and it would produce infinitely better results than many people imagine

There is another portion of the report which, of course, any woman welcomes with immense enthusiasm, and that is the idea of an expert inquiry. On these subjects what we want is more light. The time has long gene by when these subjects were not spoken of in the presence of women. We know that if we want to have more decency in the world we must be prepared to speak and to debate these subjects openly, and that is far the best and truest way in which to get these things brought about. I some-

times think, when we pray in church for God to have pity on all prisoners and captives, of all the prisoners and captives among women who are held in bad houses. But really and truly the ordinary prisons in which people get, although they are bad, are not so bad as a spiritual prison. The lot of a spiritual prisoner is far worse than that of an ordinary prisoner. There is nothing worse than taking the ordinary healthy passions and desires of humanity and over-indulging them, because it produces a kind of prison into which human beings get caught and held inevitably. That is a kind of prison which is far worse than any other. I am not so stupid as to imagine that legislation can alter all that; of course it cannot. But legislation can help, and it is because I feel that the suggestions of this report are helping towards assisting humanity in its struggle out of the slime of sensuality that I support the report with all my heart. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. (Prolonged applause.)

much, ladies and gentlemen. (Prolonged applause.)

MADAME BUGGE-WICKSELL (Sweden): Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen-In speaking upon this question I am not, in the first place, acting as a representative of the Swedish Government. I am happy to be able to state that in my country this whole subject is essentially an academic question. We have abolished public regulation of prostitution, we have no licensed houses and we know of no traffic in women or children. Nevertheless the Swedish Government has always been willing to assist as much as it could in the struggle against this infamous trade Sweden has ratified the Conventions of 1904 and 1910, and it sent representatives to the Conference here in Geneva under the auspices of the League in 1921; I was one of the Swedish delegates. Sweden has signed the Treaty that was the outcome of this Conference, and it will certainly ratify it as soon as the necessary steps have been taken to bring the Swedish Legislation into conformity with the Convention.

WHAT I REMEMBER. III.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

The Barhams were in my parents' service long before I was born. He was groom and gardener: he drove the carriage when my father didn't; he looked after the pigs, killed them when the fatal moment came, turned them into bacon and was the gentlest, kindest, dearest, and most modest man in the world. Whatever in the nature of out-door things we wanted, our first idea was to go and ask Barham; he would look down on us with his rosy apple-cheeked face and smiling eyes, and say, as he put down his de: "You are more trouble to me than all my money," and then proceed to do what we wanted. Years later, when most of us were grown up, my father had the idea, a suitable artist being handy, of having portraits painted of all the men who had been more than twenty years in his service. Barham who was the senior and the most well-beloved, objected very much and when the artist proposed to depict him with a pot of azaleas in his hand, downright refused to permit it. "If it had been a rake or a hoo, he said, he wouldn't have minded so much; so a rake it had to be. Barham was a devotedly religious man and belonged to a small dissenting community which had no chapel in Aldeburgh; they had, however, a meeting place on Aldringham Common, about 3 miles away. Some expressed surprise at this, and especially that Barham chose this distant place of worship, involving a six-mile walk on Sundays after all his hard physical work on weekdays. But he was out-and-out an out-door man, and I believe that the walk, the main part of which was over a lovely common covered with gorse and heather, with the sea shining in the near distance, was to Barham a real sanctuary

Mrs. Barham was no less remarkable, a tall handsome woman with waving hair growing low on her forehead like the Clytie in the British Museum. She had charge of my mother's dairy as long as her health permitted. She was a most interesting conversationalist. We never went to see her without bringing away with us something worth remembering. She had two sons and a daughter. The elder son took service in London with Mr. T. Valentine Smith, with whom my father had business relations. The younger Barham became a first-rate wheelwright, and afterwards was placed in a responsible position on Mr. T. V. Smith's estate in Scotland. One of Mrs. Barham's epigrams related to the positions of trust occupied by her husband and eldest son, the one in Aldeburgh and the other at Thames Bank,

¹ This article is the third of a series which will extend over several months.

London. She said: "The sailors, they tell me that the last thing they hear when they leave Aldeburgh is some one hollering for Barham, and the first thing they hear when they reach Thames Bank is some one hollering for Barham."

The younger son, John, was an apprentice in a general shop in Aldeburgh. This did not suit Mrs. Barham's ambitions for him, and he was sent to London. Mrs. Barham's account of it was this: "John is a good lad, but I know my John wants polish; so I am sending him to a situation in the Whitechapel Road." This poor John, whether polished or unpolished, was certainly vaccinated, but he died of smallpox in London in one of the epidemics which swept through it in the early sixties. About her daughter, Mrs. Barham was reticent—but obviously very sad. She was thought to have married well: her husband was a tradesman with a good business, but he was a drunkard and often and often the poor daughter felt she must have left him if it hadn't been for the two children. However, for the sake of her boy and girl, she endured to the end, which came while the man was still young The next time I called on Mrs. Barham after this, she said You hev heard no doubt m'm that my daughter hev lost her dear husband," a slight pause, in which I intimated assent, and, Mrs. Barham continued: "You wonder, I expect, at my calling of him 'dear'; but he was dear, he cost her a many tears and sighs." And then she went on: "There was a great change come over William Marker before he died; sometimes he would ask my dear daughter to read a chapter or to sing him a hymn, and when I think of the poor dying thief I hev my strong hopes of William Marker. But you know, m'm, you should see how them millers come buzzing about round my dear daughter. Mrs. Marker,' says one of 'em, 'I am desirous of becoming the purchaser of your business,' 'And so you will, sir,' she say, 'if you're the highest bidder.' Another came and say, 'Mrs. Marker, you must remember you hev lost your pore husband.' 'I hev sir,' she say, 'but I hev not lost myself.

Once in our young days my sister Agnes and I went to a ball² at Saxmundham, Barham driving us in our old-fashioned

On our return journey, about 2 a.m., there had been a slight fall of snow, and on the place in the Aldeburgh Road where it

crosses the Common there were no hedges to mark its course. The horses wandered from the road and went up a fairly steep bank, with the result that the carriage was overturned; my sister and I, in our satin slippers, found ourselves about two miles from home with no choice but to walk the rest of the way. Barham, of course, was on his feet even before we were on ours, seeing to the horses, who stood perfectly still. He remained guarding the carriage and its contents until he obtained help, while we walked home The tragedy came next day. My father was furiously angry with Barham-said he must have been drunk, which was to us absurd. Everyone but Barham admitted that he might have been bit sleepy. But Barham wouldn't even admit this, and my father dismissed him. Barham went home very quietly; he maintained that he was not drunk and was not asleep, but that it was impossible in that place under a slight fall of snow to see When Barham reappeared he was in his Sunday clothes: he did not take himself off in a temper, he merely said that he wasn't going to leave; he knew when he had got a good master and master ought to know when he had got a good servant. Then my father fumed and raged, and stuck to it that Barham should leave. Our one hope was Mrs. Barham, and she did not fail us. Her own account of it was that on the second morning after the dismissal it was cold and wet, and she persuaded Barham to have a cup of tea in bed. "Then I went down and made him a nice cup of tea and a slice of hot buttered toast, like I know he liked, and I set down by his side till he had finished, and then I said to him, gentle like: 'Now, Barham, you was asleep, wasn't you?' and Barham said he might ha' been.' And thus ended our domestic tragedy. Some months after, lames Smith, our eldest sister's husband, being in Aldeburgh, Barham came in to his wife with a smile on his face, and she asked im what he was smiling at. Mrs. Barham must tell the rest. "Mr. Smith," he say, "hev been a joking of me about upsetting my young ladies." "Barham," I say, "I wonder at you, jokin' on hat solemn occasion."

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I could really go on almost indefinitely reporting Mrs. Barham's conversation. She was not only a very good talker, but was clever all round in many kinds of work. She made most elaborate oatchwork quilts of geometrical design, of her own devising; and for us, her own young ladies, as she called us, she aimed at aking them entirely of silk. When she was working at one of these quilts, made up by small octagons fitted together with minute nicety, my sister Alice (Mrs. Cowell) came in to see her nd found that Mrs. Barham was running short of a pale cream loured silk, which was needed to finish one of the four corners f the design in a quilt to be presented either to Agnes or myself: She see in a minute how I was sitivated and how short I was of that light; well, she went home and sent me two bodies of frocks dirackly—soo like a sister!" Each of the little octagons was tacked on to a paper of the exact shape required, and when he sewing together was accomplished the great work began of aking out all the paper framework on which the quilt had been built up. "I tell Barham," she would say, "that he mustn't xpect no hot victuals when I am taking out the papers." When illts had been made for all the six daughters of my father's ouse, the daughters-in-law began to think (one of them, at any rate) that their turn was coming. But Mrs. Barham quickly tipped this expectation in the bud. "Noo, Mrs. Edmund, replied to a rather pointed inquiry, "I shall niver make another; my husband say I am not to, and," turning to me for confirmation, "we must always do what our husbands say, mustn't we, ma'am?" I rejoined: "I wonder at you, Mrs. Barham, talking like that, when everybody knows that Barham does what you say a great deal more than you do what e says." A smile and a knowing look came into her face, and she rejoined, slyly: "Well, m'm, I du say that if our oon way is a ood way there's nothing like hevin' it." (The "oth" in nothing hould be pronounced like the "oth" in bother.) This became quite a familiar saying in our family.

ERRATA.

In the issue of 21st September in the paragraph near the bottom of the first column beginning "Crabbe's house" the sentence beginning "He is still our one poet" should continue after a full stop: "But a poet of to-day, Mr. John Freeman," etc. A later passage in the same paragraph, the words "A former engraving" should be "A Turner engraving."

In the next column in the paragraph beginning "But to return to Aldeburgh," I appear to say that the only "nice" families in Aldeburgh were those with aristocratic connections. That line should read—"It is true there were three families." etc.

THE LAW AT WORK.

NEWPAPER REPORTS.

An important issue now before the public is whether or not there should be further restrictions on the publication of law reports in the newspapers. It was recently brought to the front by the lengthy and sensational reports of a sordid "society" divorce suit which appeared in nearly all newspapers. This has led to the introduction of a Bill to restrict reports of matrimonial proceedings and to the appointment of a Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Evelyn Cecil to consider and report upon the Bill. Both the Bill (price 2d.) and the Report (price 3d.) should be read by those who are interested in the subject.

There are two considerations which must be borne in mind. The first is the harm that may be done by unrestricted publication of divorce cases. The race among newspapers for the highest circulation causes them to vie with one another as to which can produce the most arresting headlines and the most lurid details. The element of snobbery is also conspicuous, and the more highly placed the parties the longer are the reports. Young people especially cannot fail to get harm from reading and discussing such stuff, and all decent people feel that they would like to suppress it if they could.

The Bill above mentioned proposes that in reports of matrimonial cases only the names of the parties, the grounds of the proceedings, the particulars of any point of law arising, and the final decision should be published, and it further goes on to forbid, even in the abbreviated report, the inclusion of "any indecent matter, or medical, surgical, or physiological details, the publication of which would be calculated to injure public " Sir Evelyn Cecil's Committee see no reason why this last prohibition should be confined to matrimonial cases, and recommend in their report that it should apply to all judicial proceedings. There is, of course, already a law upon the Statute Book which prohibits indecency in the public Press, but the Committee think that the above definition is of value as "it has the advantage of giving more or less specific instructions to a news editor what is to be blue-pencilled out." They also recommend that the proceedings against any newspaper which it is desirable to prosecute for a breach of the law should be heard before the magistrates, with the ordinary right of appeal to Quarter Sessions and a jury. The penalty on conviction is to be £500—a much larger fine than any that magistrates have at present the power to inflict.

We may now proceed to our second consideration: how far is such restriction on publication likely to hamper the chances of justice or to conceal from the public what ought to be known? It is important that men and women should have an opportunity of knowing how matrimonial suits are conducted and what chances are open to the unhappily married of getting relief from their position. This is specially the case with poor and ignorant women who know little enough of the law as it is and may certainly gain some useful knowledge from reading police court news in the papers. And there is a possibility that if the papers are only allowed to print certain specified facts on matrimonial cases they may think it not worth while to report them at all.

When we consider the further restrictions which are proposed by the Committee on reports of any judicial preceedings which contain any indecent matter we feel the risks in the proposal more acutely. There is no fixed standard of decency; it varies from one age to another, one country to another, and one person to another. Discussions as to what is or is not decent may rage for ever. If the proposals of the Committee became law, a man or woman might be prosecuted for publishing indecent matter and even put in prison while the public remained ignorant of the exact rights and wrongs of the case because the newspapers were not allowed to report it fully. And the so-called indecent matter might be information on some subject such as Birth Control or the desirability of which there might be wide difference of view and on which a well-informed public opinion ought certainly to be brought to bear.

OUR PLANS.

This week contains the first article in a section of the paper which in future will be entitled "Household Economics," under the guidance of Ann Pope, which will deal in a liberal and broad way with matters relating to modern and scientific housekeeping. Next week Mrs. Fawcett's fascinating reminiscences will be continued, as well as Mrs. Starchey's first-hand impressions from Geneva. An article called "Education for Citizenship" will be of special interest to our readers; as it is the record of an actual achievement by an organization of women and no mere academic ideal

² At this ball, and at several others, we met members of the Cavell family, probably before the birth of Edith Cavell, the heroic nurse who was shot by the Germans in Brussels about 50 years later, on 15th October, 1915.

¹ Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMICS.

This column is under the direction of Ann Pope, who will be pleased to receive contributions in the form of letters, not exceeding 300 words; or short articles, not exceeding 600 words.]

HOW A FARM LABOURER'S FAMILY LIVES. WRITTEN BY HIS WIFE.

Ours is a six-roomed cottage, and we are nine in family—my husband and myself and seven children. The eldest, a girl, is 11 years of age, and baby boy—breast-fed—six months. Our weekly wage is 30s., and we pay 3s. per week rent. We keep a dozen hens, it helps a nice lot the greater part of the year. The week I have chosen is from 7th October to 14th October, 1922.

week I have chosen is from 7th	October to 11th core,
Profits from Garden and	One week's grocery bill :-
Hens	S. C.
We sold :- £ s. d.	bushel flour, 3 oz.
16 lb. damsons at	$\frac{1}{2}$ yeast 5 $7\frac{1}{2}$
- 1 d. per lb 2 0	Granulated sugar . 1 11
1 doz. eggs 2 8	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea 1 2
1 doz. eggs 2	1 lb. cocoa 8
6 lb. kidney beans at	$\frac{7}{3}$ lb. rice $7\frac{1}{2}$
26 lb. onions at 2d.	
por lb 4 4	1 lb. lard 9
	1 lb. margarine . 8
10 0	2 lb. cheese at 11d 1 10
Wages 1 10 0	1 lb. candles 6
1, 48-60	1 box matches . 1
2 0 0	This week's portion
Deduct rent 3 0	bacon 3 0
Deduct fent	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. currants $4\frac{1}{2}$
1 17 0	2 10. Cultures
	17 81
Week's living, etc 1 15 $2\frac{1}{2}$	
1/01	
$19\frac{1}{2}$	2 1b. beer.
I have this week a small sum	
I have this week a small sum	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. farm butter . 1 0
in hand for church collection	
and help the following week,	£1 1 $7\frac{1}{2}$
when I shall have no garden	THE RESERVE TO SERVE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY
produce to sell.	

Other Expenses.

Insurance premiums in the Prudential Co State stamp	s. 1	d. 5	2 yds. white ribbon One postage stamp Maize for fowls .		s.	d. 8 $1\frac{1}{2}$ 6
Husband's papers Weekly papers 1 yd. white elastic 2 pairs socks 1 boy's jersey	2 4	$ \begin{array}{c c} 3\frac{1}{2} \\ 2 \\ 10 \\ 0 \end{array} $	Brought forward	1 £1	13 1 15	$7 \\ 7\frac{1}{2} \\ 2\frac{1}{2}$

Weekly Menu.

We eat porridge for breakfast every morning to commence

Sunday.—Beef for dinner and apple tart; bread and jam and cake for tea; a cup of cocoa for supper. Monday.—Remains of meat stewed, onions, potatoes, and

Tuesday.—Breakfast fried potatoes; dinner fish and apple

fritters; margarine on toast for tea; cup of cocoa for supper.

Wednesday.—Baked rabbit, milk pudding, baked apples;

margarine, jam for tea. Thursday.—Bacon dinner, carrots, potatoes, bread and jam for sweets. Being baking day we make three large dough cakes to last the week

Friday.—Macaroni cheese, milk pudding (coconut), mashed potatoes

Saturday.—Bacon, cold semolina, with jam.

My husband has a slice of bacon or an egg for lunch and the children carry lunch to school, with sometimes a hot baked potato or apple between meals.

This is not written in business form, but baby cries and postman waits. My life is all work.

We have our groceries brought out every fortnight.

We burn wood, with $\frac{1}{2}$ ton coal for winter. HOPEFUL.

THE WOMEN'S HOUSING MOVEMENT.

HOUSING COUNCILS.

With the passing of the Housing Act, 1923, fresh opportunities are given to women to take an active part in the effort to secure a supply of houses that will more adequately meet the shortage that at present exists. The Solihull Women's Village Council will be the first to take advantage of the Government Subsidy in their scheme for building four cottages in their village. Given public support and a sincere desire on the part of the well-housed to solve the problem for their less fortunate neighbours, the day may vet dawn when heads of working-class families will be able to take a decent cottage at a reasonable rent and live in it.

Realizing that if women want homes they must bestir themselves to get houses, the Women's Village Council Federation, which in 1917 began its work in country villages, has recently undertaken the formation of Women's Housing Councils in Metropolitan Boroughs. Three have already been established; several others are in the making

The movement began in North Kensington, where women's votes largely outnumber men's. Yet in that wealthy borough respectable working-class people live under appalling conditions—not because they cannot afford to pay a fair rent, but

because there are no houses to pay rent for.

As a result of a recent enquiry it is stated that 430,000 London school children are suffering from verminous heads, 8 per cent. are always absent on account of illness, 30 per cent. under five years of age have something wrong with them. Is it any wonder? What are women going to do about it? For it must not be umed that the evils caused by bad housing are found only in London. They have existed, and in spite of all attempts at social betterment during recent years they still persist, in all large towns and in many villages all over the country

The Councils now being formed in Metropolitan Boroughs are giving women the opportunity of working with those who have expert knowledge of Town Planning, Housing and Sanitation, and of the special needs of each Borough. Both men and women may join as Associates. The annual fees are nominal: Council Members 1s., Associates 2s. 6d.

The Federation is attempting a great task; it needs the support of every intelligent and well-intentioned citizen.

The aims of the Women's Housing Councils are: 1. To acquire first-hand information of the present shortage of houses and of slum conditions in the Boroughs and of their bad effects on Maternity and Infant Welfare and on Elementary Education; to work for Housing Reform and a standard of

2. To help women to realize and to fulfil their duties as citizens and to assist their representation on Borough Councils. 3. Through Town Planning and the Beautiful England Scheme, and the Children's Promise, to help in the creation and preservation of all forms of beauty in the Boroughs.

The Member's Pledge is as follows:

"I join the Council to work with other women for the good of our Borough.

Any woman over 21 years of age living in the Borough and in sympathy with its aims may join a Council, the principal idea being the "betterment of housing in the Borough carried out by people able to judge, including women who live and work in the houses

The Councils, which are unpaid, undenominational, and non-party, are affiliated with: The National Housing and Town Planning Council, The National Baby Week Council, The Women's Local Covernment Society, The Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations, and The National Union of Teachers.

Further particulars may be obtained from: The Hon. Secretary, Women's Housing and Village Councils' Federation, 92 Victoria Street London S.W.1.

A second edition of the pamphlet entitled "The Housing Problem," drafted by the Housing Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations—a co ordinating body representing 63 different societies—has recently been published. Local branches of the National Council of Women or of the Women Citizens' Association that may be considering the formation of Housing Councils in particular towns or Boroughs will find much useful information contained within the covers of this little book, which can be obtained from the Secretary of the Consultative Committee, 5 York Buildings,

Adelphi, W.C.2., at 1s. 3d. each copy or 10s. 6d. a dozen, post

SEPTEMBER 28, 1923.

The Federation song is Sir Hubert Parry's setting of Blake's prophetic poem "Jerusalem," and nobly and untiringly it is working to bring appreciably nearer the day when the ideal city shall be no longer a figment of the imagination, but a tangible and visible fact in "England's green and pleasant

M. E. BLYTH.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

OUR SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Summer School opened on Friday, the 21st inst., with an Inaugural Meeting, at which students revived old friendships and made new acquaintances. The aims of the School and its various arrangements were explained by the Director. On Saturday morning the lectures started in full swing. Miss Morton, Assistant Secretary of the Proportional Representation Society, opened the course on Electoral Methods by an examination of the Simple Majority System which frequently results, in the case of a constituency with more than two candidates, in the successful candidate being returned on a minority of votes; and also of the Alternative vote, which, according to the Lecturer, leads to an undesirable increase of bargaining between the political parties. Miss Anne Ashley, M.A., gave a most admirably lucid lecture on the Theory of Wages; she pointed out that the amount which can be paid in wages as a whole, depends on the total productivity of the community, and that the individual wage depends not on the deserts of any one wage-earner, but on the various factors affecting demand and supply and relative bargaining strength. She emphasized the need of adopting measures so as to distribute the National Dividend to give to each according to his needs, and of the co-relative of this principle—for each individual to give his services according to his capacity. Mrs. Walter Layton gave a vivid description of the work of the League of Nations during 1923. She described what the League had been able to achieve with regard to the financial reconstruction of Austria, the boundary problems in Albania, the administration of the Saar valley, and referred in some detail to the Græco-Italian dispute. The lectures were all followed by keen discussions

A conference of representatives of twelve of our Northern Societies met on Saturday evening to discuss autumn programmes, Parliamentary work in the Constituencies, etc., and a further meeting to deal with other problems of organization, especially finance was asked for. Save for occasional heavy showers the weather has been fine and full advantage of this good fortune has been taken by the students. On Saturday afternoon a coach load of twenty-four made the magnificent round via the Honister Crag to Buttermere. Sunday was devoted by some to church, others to walks, and by nearly all to a delightful tea at Mrs. Frank Marshall's lovely house, the grounds of which spread down to the lake. The School, though small, is full up to its capacity. The students are somewhat scattered in different lodgings, but none are alone and the lectures, the common room, and excursions give ample opportunity for meeting. That delightful combination of opportunities for hard thinking and of a real holiday feeling and lightness of heart, which should characterize all Summer Schools worthy of the name, seems to have settled on this one, its only regret being the unavoidable absence of one of the directors, Miss Macadam, owing to the serious illness of her sister. A further account of the school and of the public meeting will be given next week.

THE PLANE TREE RESTAURANT, LTD. 106 GREAT RUSSELL ST., W.C.1. Mus. 6027. LUNCH and TEA at moderate prices. HOME-MADE CAKES AND CHOCOLATES. Orders delivered cr sent by post.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

While the minds of all who are working for peace and freedom are absorbed in the German crisis, it is important that we should not overlook the great achievement of the League of Nations in the restoration of hope and life to Austria.

In 1920 it was thought impossible that Austria could survive as an independent State and inevitable that at least half the population of Vienna would perish. The co-operation of many nations, first in relief to tide over the emergency, and then, through the League of Nations' financial scheme of 1922, in the apparently hopeless task of securing a financial basis on which self-supporting economic life could be carried on by the Austrians themselves, a co-operation in which the Austrians have taken an incredibly heavy share, the impossible has been achieved.

The report made by Dr. Zimmerman, the Dutchman, who is Finance Controller in Vienna under the League, to the Assembly

on 8th September, is of absorbing interest.

Sir William Goode, who knew Austrian economics intimately in the blackest days of 1920, and is now advisor to the Hungarian Government, has given a description of the serious conditions in Hungary to-day in the Manchester Guardian of 20th September, and makes urgent appeal that the League of Nations should apply the same methods to enable Austria's neighbour to recover.

The WOMAN'S LEADER

Every Friday.

One Penny.

In the present issue appears the third of a Series of Articles by Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D. which will extend throughout the Autumn and Winter months, entitled

"WHAT I REMEMBER"

Send 6/6 to the office of the paper, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1, and you will receive THE WOMAN'S LEADER every week for a year. It may be had for 3 months for 1/8.

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The Session begins on MONDAY, 1st OCTOBER, 1923.

REGISTRAR, The University, Birmingham

COMING EVENTS.

EDINBURGH S.E.C. OCT. 5-8. Week-end School at Dunblane.
EDINBURGH W.C.A. OCT 3. At 8 p.m. Goold Hall, 5 St. Andrew's Square.
Public Discussion: "Slaughtering of Animals." Speakers: Prof. Linton, M.R.C.V.S., and
Councillor.Watt. Chairman: Lady Leslie Mackenzie.

Councillor Watt. Chairman: Lady Lesne Mackets.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

Starting of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance: "Why Feminism is

WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

DEC, 5 and 6. Board Room, Metropolitan Asylums Board. Conference for Women Councillors, Guardians and Magistrates.

SIX-POINT GROUP.

NOV. 14. Kingsway Hall, at 8 p.m. Meeting on the subject of Child Assault.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

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PETT, SUSSEX.—To let, for winter or longer, two semi-detached, dry, completely furnished five-roomed cottages; south aspect; beautiful land and sea views; frequent bus service Hastings; modern sanitation (outside).—Miss Row, Sunset Cottage.

HAMPSTEAD.—Two or three unfurnished ROOMS to let in private house; use of bath, gas, electric light; no attendance; from 15s. per room per week.—Write, Miss O'Malley, 6 Steeles Road, N.W. 3.

NO RENT ASKED.—Why not combine with two or three friends and their children to enjoy a house of 11 bedrooms, 5 sitting-rooms, perpetual hot water, huge stove in hall, gas, garage and stable, on the southern slope of Ashdown Forest, with south aspect and sunny verandah, on the Lewes-Brighton road, 5 miles from Forest Row and 1½ hours from London. Five competent and reliable servants, two living out, whose wages total about £6 tos, per week, are retained to run it from October to April.—Apply, Box 1,014, Woman's Leader, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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QUAINT Villages, South Downs; station, buses; BOARD RESIDENCE in country cottage; moderate winter terms; vacancies 5th October.—Miss Wheadon, Berwick,

PROFESSIONAL.

44 MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particular Agency Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 84 Kingsway, W.C. 2. Phone, Central 6049. Estab'd 1908.

LEARN TO KEEP ACCOUNTS.—There are especially good lessons in book-keeping at Miss Blakeney's School of Typewriting and Shorthand, Wentworth House, Mauresa Road, Chelsea, S.W. 3. "I learnt more there in a week," says an old pupil, "than I learnt elsewhere in a month." Pupils prepared for every kind of secretarial post,

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PILLOW COTTON.—Remnant bundles of pillow cotton, superior quality, to make six pillow-cases, 20 x 30 ins., 9s. 9d. per bundle, postage 6d. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 44 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

PURE HOME-MADE JAM AND BOTTLED FRUIT.— Orders taken at the House Assistants' Centre for 1 lb., 2 lb., 3 lb. or 7 lb. jars. Single small jars can be bought at the Centre. Write and enclose stamped addressed envelope for price list.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

GREY TWEED COAT (stock size); also fawn striped tweed coat (medium size); both semi-lined.—Box 1,015, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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DRESS.

KNITTED CORSETS.—Avoid chills, no pressure. List free.—Knitted Corset Co., Nottingham.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.— Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Change of Address; Wellington House, Buckingham Gate. Enquiries: Room 6, 3rd floor.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £55s.; Country and Professional Members £44s. Entrance fee in abeyance (\$pro. tem.).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1: Sunday, 30th September, 6.30, Dr. Julia Seton, "The Incredible Art."

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JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. r. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafetaria and in the garden. Thursday Club Suppers and Discussion Meetings re-open in September. 4th October. Miss Sterling, of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance: "Why Feminism is still necessary."

SUMMER SCHOOL.—Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship, Week-end School, Dunblane, Scotland, 5th-8th Oct.—Apply, 40 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

POST WANTED.

ORGANISING SECRETARY, good experience, London and provinces, desires change of post. Thoroughly acquainted with office and committee routine, accustomed to public speaking, knowledge of public health, social and political work.—Box 1,016, Woman's Leader, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminister, S.W. 1.

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